

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCS-03

SCA-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /172 W

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P R 191214Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 376

USINT ALGIERS

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMNAVTRACOM

COMNAVCOMMSTA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF XI MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN SITREP OCTOBER 19

1. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE LITTLE TO COMPLAIN OF IN RECENT COVERAGE OF MIDEAST WAR BY MOROCCAN MEDIA, WHICH PARADOXICALLY TOOK A TURN FOR THE BETTER FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESUPPLY OPERATION MADE. IN GENERAL, TONE OF PRESS, TV, AND RADIO IS SOBER, WITH EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF BLOOD DRIVE WHICH NOW UNDERWAY. ON OCTOBER 17 KING HASSAN SET EXAMPLE BY GIVING BLOOD HIMSELF. THERE HAS BEEN MARKED DOWNTURN IN MATERIAL PUBLISHED IN PRESS ABOUT ROLE OF MOROCCAN TROOPS IN FIGHTING. MAP ANNOUNCEMENT OCTOBER 18 THAT COLONELS DLIMI AND LOUBARIS, CHIEFS OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, HAD RETURNED FROM THE MIDEAST AND INFORMED KING OF HIGH MORAL AND GOOD CONDUCT OF MOROCCAN CONFIDENTIAL

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TROOPS, WAS PRINTED IN SMALL BOX ON FRONT PAGE OF SEMI-

OFFICIAL DAILY THIS MORNING, WITHOUT PROMINENT HEADLINES. RUMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE IN RABAT THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES IN GOLAN FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO ONE SUCH RUMOR, GENERAL SEFRIoui, COMMANDER OF TROOPS IN SYRIA, WAS HIMSELF SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND HAS BEEN EVACUATED FROM FRONT TO MOROCCO.

2. ALTHOUGH MOROCCANS OBVIOUSLY CONTINUE TO FOLLOW EVENTS CLOSELY, NOTHING RESEMBLING WAR FEVER SEEMS TO BE DEVELOPING, AND CITIES ARE CALM. ISTIQLAL-SPONSORED RALLY HELD IN RABAT LAST NIGHT WENT OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND THERE WAS NO SPILLOVER OF EXCITEMENT INTO STREETS. AS WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY (RABAT 4698), JEWISH COMMUNITY IS NERVOUS, BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANY REPORTS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST ITS MEMBERS.

3. ONE FACTOR WORKING TO MODERATE CRITICISM OF US IS OBVIOUSLY FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA'S CALL ON PRESIDENT OCTOBER 16 WITH THREE OTHER ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN PRESS WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. FOR TIME BEING, AT LEAST, KING HASSAN SEEMS TO HAVE MADE DECISION TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY, AND TO HAVE INSTRUCTED PRESS TO AVOID VILIFICATION OF U.S.

4. SINGLE EXCEPTION TO THIS TREATMENT CAME WHEN COMMUNIST-LINE AL BAYANE, WHICH NORMALLY SUBMITTED TO CENSORS BEFORE PUBLICATION, WAS ALLOWED TO APPEAR OCTOBER 16 WITH CALL (IN EDITORIAL ON INSIDE PAGE) FOR "EVACUATION OF AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY." (SIC) THIS IS ONLY SPECIFIC PUBLIC MENTION OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOROCCO SINCE WAR BEGAN.
PARKER

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